ailability and policy frame work. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government, through changes in policies & procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion and in consultation with Trade and Industry. Having regard to the performance during the year, exports would be lower than was envisaged at the beginning of the year.

(c) and (d) The Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested the formation of a National Export Council. A decision on this has not yet been taken.

Agreement with SAFTA

164. SHRI SANJAY DALIMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the agreement of South Asian Free Trade Area;

(b) the likely date of its coming into operation; and

(c) the level of trade undertaken among SAFTA countries during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Tariff preferences amongst SAARC members countries have been exchanged under the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA). SAPTA has become operational with effect from 7 December, 1995. The South Asian Free Trade Area is expected to be realised by the year 2000 but not later than 2005.

(c) India's imports and exports to the SAARC countries during the last three years are as under:

India's Exports Rs. Crores/(%age growth)

	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Maldives	Nepal	Bhutan	%age of World Trade Total
1993-94	1349.31 (31.12)	903.23 (25.75)	200.96 (36.63)	24.88 (11.87)	307.84 (46.69)	31.16 (395.88)	4.03
1994-95	2024.13 (50.01)	1151 (27.44)	179.71 (−10.57)	48.28 (94.04)	377.03 (22.48)	34.93 (11.76)	4.61
1995-96	3469.91 (71.43)	1335.62 (16.03)	256.8 (42.9)	52.52 (8,78)	536.45 (42.28)	47.56 (54.79)	5.36

Source: DGCIS

India's Imports Rs. Crores/(%age growth)

	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Maldives	Nepal	Bhutan	%age of World Trade Total
1993-94	56.07 (151.14)	62.82 (57.59)	136.68 (−63.60)	1.02 (259.75)	90.68 (61.41)	9.35 (166.24)	0.48
1995-96	119.82 (113.70)	88.12 (40.27)	165.61 (21.17)	0.73 (−28.87)	114.89 (26.70)	57.40 (513.96)	0.60
1995-96	282.13 (135.5)	145.83 (65.5)	150.8 (−8.94)	0.55 (−24.66)	166.95 (45.31)	107.2 (86.76)	0.70

Source: DGCIS

Import and export from SAARC countries

165. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total import and export from SAARC countries, country-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether the trade between the

SAARC countries has increased after the signing of SAPTA; and

(c) the items of import and export from Pakistan and Bangladesh and the value of import and export in each item during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The figures of import and export from SAARC countries, country-wise during the last 3 years are given in Annexure. *[See Appendix 180, Annexure No. 3]*

(b) The data on inter-se trade between SAARC countries, prior to and after operationalisation of SAPTA on December 7, 1995 is not available. However, the figures of India's trade with the SAARC Member countries during the period April-November, 1996 (latest available) as compared to the corresponding period during the previous year shows an upward trend, as given below:—

(Rs. Crores)

	Import	Export	Total
Apr. Nov. '95	578.91	3515.00	4093.91
Apr. Nov. '96	496.54	3786.40	4282.94

(c) The details of major items of import and export from Pakistan and Bangladesh during the last 3 years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Major Items Exported to Pakistan

(In Rupees Crores)

S. No.	Item	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Oil Meals	56.62	44.29	83.47
2.	Dyes/Intermediates & coal tar chemicals	26.16	21.26	34.25
3.	Spices	18.08	10.61	33.01
4.	Fruits/Vegetable seeds	0.23	2.62	79.97
5.	Iron Ore	29.83	15.35	19.72
6.	Inorganic/Organic Agro Chemicals	1.82	1.36	11.68
7.	Drugs/Pharmaceuticals & fine Chemicals	9.85	4.77	9.91
8.	Paints/enamels/varnishes etc.	6.41	7.30	7.62
9.	Electronics Goods	1.01	1.36	6.26
10.	Paper/wood products	3.81	3.18	4.43
	Total Exports	200.96	179.71	256.80

Source: DGCI&S

Major Imports from Pakistan

(value in Rs. crores)

S. No.	Item	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Fruits & Nuts excl. cashew nuts	67.90	80.63	64.81
2.	Fertilizers Manufactured	—	—	40.13
3.	Txtl. Yarn, Fabrics, Made-ups	10.08	14.43	9.04
4.	Wool Raw	13.76	1.08	7.36
5.	Spices	7.97	10.18	6.48
	Total Imports	136.65	165.61	150.80

Source: DGCI&S

Details of Export of Major Items to Bangladesh

(In Rupees Crores)

S. No.	Item	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Cotton yarn, fabrics made-ups	549.07	798.24	943.49
2.	Engg. Goods	178.03	344.08	478.43
3.	Manmade yarn, fabrics made-ups	25.40	31.35	32.34
4.	Fruits & Veg.	50.10	28.17	49.93
5.	Spices	12.58	6.76	43.48
6.	Rubber manufactured products	38.53	32.17	72.61
7.	Glass/glassware ceramics/cement	107.61	112.26	99.80
8.	Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & fine chemicals	25.61	35.03	45.99
9.	Dyes/Intermediates & coal tar chemicals	28.49	36.03	37.62
10.	Coal	52.58	74.02	70.40

Source: DGCI&S

Details of Import of Major Items from Bangladesh

(In Rupees Crores)

1.	Inorganic Chemicals	0.07	70.00	90.78
2.	Fertilizer (manufactd.)	21.25	43.00	115.24
3.	Jute	23.17	56.83	36.53
4.	Transport equipment	0.04	0.08	5.67
5.	Leather	5.14	7.78	3.32

Source: DGCI&S

Import of Kesar from Iran

166. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted import of Kesar from Iran, which is 50% cheaper than the one produced in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons for import of Kesar;

(c) whether Government are aware that the import from Iran has adversely affected the growers of the spice in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) whether Government propose to ban the import; if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Under the current Export & Import Policy, of Kesar (saffron) is not permitted except against a specific import licence. Ministry of Commerce have not issued any specific import licence for the import of the same during the current licensing year.

(c) to (e) Govenrment have not received any representation in this regard and at present, there is no proposal to change the existing policy for import of Kesar.

Export Promotion to Improve Balance of Payment

167. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete programme/policy Government propose with regard to promotion of export for improvement of balance of payment of the country;